

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are all of the claims presently pending in this application.

Applicants hereby affirm the previous election of Group II, claims 14-20. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application for claims 1-13 in due course.

Claims 14-20 are hereby amended to correct typographical errors and improve idiomatic style. Claim 14 is also amended to more particularly define the invention, as discussed below. Support for this amendment is found, for example, at least in paragraphs [0055] and [0056] of the specification.

The obviousness rejection of claims 14-20 is respectfully traversed based on the foregoing amendment to claim 14 and the following remarks.

Claim 14 now recites that each steel cord has a tensile force applied thereto that is “within a load corresponding to an elongation in a linear gentle gradient line” of the load-elongation curve defined in the remainder of the claim. Caretta and Miyawaki, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest this feature as now more clearly recited.

As shown in Fig. 5 of the present application, the load-elongation curve of the steel cord comprises a linear gentle gradient line (elongation:  $0-\delta_1$ , load:  $0-L_1$ ), a connecting line (elongation:  $\delta_1-\delta_2$ , load:  $L_1-L_2$ ) and a linear steep gradient line (elongation:  $\delta_2$ -breakage, load:  $L_2$ -breakage). In the present invention, the tensile force of the steel cord is used within a range of only the linear gentle gradient line in the vulcanization of the tire and does not enter into the connecting line. Therefore, the steel cord in the tire is used within the range of the linear gentle gradient line after the vulcanization and before the filling of the nominal internal pressure (load within  $L_1$ , elongation within  $\delta_1$ ). That is, the present invention has a feature that the steel cord in the tire is used under a condition of satisfying the linear gentle gradient line of the load-elongation curve. This is simply not taught or suggested by Caretta and/or Miyawaki.

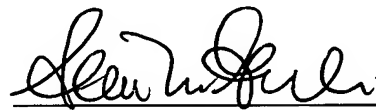
In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111  
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/003,291

ART UNIT 1733  
Q65012

A Petition for Extension of Time with appropriate fee accompanies this document. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all additional required fees (except the Issue Fee and/or the Publication Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 26, 2004